International Leather Complex in Andhra Pradesh

732. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought sanction for setting up an International Leather Complex; and

(b) if so, the action taken to give a fillip to the leather industry to provide employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up an International Leather Complex in the State has been received. The scheme for setting up a Leather Complex at an appropriate location is part of a proposal for integrated development of leather sector having an outlay of Rs. 400 crore in the Tenth Five Year Plan and comprising several schemes/initiatives. These schemes/initiatives are aimed at improving global competitiveness of the Indian leather industry, thereby catalyzing employment in the sector.

DGFT directive to exporters and importer

†733. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from now onwards it would be mandatory for exporters and importers to submit the details of their business to the DGFT on annual basis; and

(b) if so, the objective of the DGFT behind issuing such a directive as the small traders would be put to difficulty as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Each Importer-Exporter Code number (IEC) holder shall be required to furnish details of imports/exports made by him in the preceding licensing years by 31st October, 2003.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No export or import can be made by any person without an IEC number, updation of the existing list of IEC holders and on an annual basis thereafter will ensure that only genuine parties engaged in foreign trade obtain IEC. Any IEC holder can comply with this requirement on-line by filling up a simple format. Large number of exporters have already filed the return. However, the dead-line for filing of the returns has been extended from 31st July to 31st October this year at the request of some of the trade bodies.

China eyeing Indian diamond cutting industry

734. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian accounts for over 70 per cent of the global diamond cutting and polishing industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that China is eyeing that industry in view of cheap labour cost in China; and

(c) the action proposed to review labour policies, infrastructure bottlenecks, etc. threatening domestic diamond industry with labour problem with threat to relocate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India is the largest cutting and polishing centre in the world. India's share in global cut and polished diamonds approximately is 60% in terms of value, 85% in terms of volume, 92% in terms of pieces. 11 out of 12 diamonds set in jewellery world-wide are cut and polished in India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Review and updation of labour policy is a continuous process so as to ensure its relevance to the emerging needs. The labour policy to a large extent is governed by various labour laws aimed at protecting the interest of workers in terms of their health, social security, welfare, and safety within the frame of overall economic policy of the Government. In the recent years the Government initiated the process of Labour Reforms with a view to meeting the challenges of globalization. Accordingly, steps have been initiated to carry out amendments in some important labour laws with a view to maintaining their contemporariness.